

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, NAC
SUBJECT: APRIL 19 PERMREP LUNCHEON DISCUSSION OF NATO LONDON
SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 86299 (DTG 162054Z APR 77),
(B) USNATO 1969 (DTG 051730Z APR 77 NOTAL),
(C) STATE 086266 (DTG 161659Z APR 77 NOTAL),
(D) USNATO 220 (DTG 151743Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: CATALANO (ITALY), DEAN OF PERMREPS, MADE
STRONG PLEA FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION IN THE NAC OF POS-
SIBLE US INITIATIVES FOR THE SUMMIT. HE WAS SUPPORTED
VIGOROUSLY BY ACTING SYG PANSAN AND PERMREPS, WHO THOUGHT
FOCAL POINT FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOW BE THE
COUNCIL. PANSAN SUGGESTED SOME CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED
SUMMIT AGENDA TO OVERCOME IMPRESSION OF SEPARATE MEETINGS
ON MAY 10 AND 11. KILLICK (UK) QUESTIONED THE
PRACTICABILITY OF TRYING TO ARRANGE A TWO-TIER LUNCHEON
ON MAY 10. END SUMMARY.

1. SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL BASIS, CATALANO (ITALY)
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QUESTIONED THE EFFICACY OF CONSULTING ON WASHINGTON'S
POSSIBLE INITIATIVES FOR THE SUMMIT THROUGH FOURTEEN
SEPARATE CHANNELS, AND DOUBTED MUCH TIME WOULD BE AVAIL-
ABLE FOR CONSULTATION IN THE NAC AFTER THE US
RECEIVES AND DIGESTS INDIVIDUAL ALLIED RESPONSES. PANSAN AND
PERMREPS ECHOED CATALANO'S REMARKS, AND WONDERED
HOW A "NATO VIEW" COULD BE PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF
FOURTEEN SEPARATE DEMARCHES. A NUMBER OF PERMREPS
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FOCAL POINT FOR CONSULTATIONS
ON US INITIATIVES WOULD BE SHIFTED TO THE NAC, WHICH,

THEY SAID, WOULD PERMIT THE ALLIES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL ALLIES TO THE US PROPOSALS AS WELL AS THE US PRESENTATION. KILLICK (UK) THOUGHT THAT POTENTIAL CONFUSION ARISING FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF BILATERAL CONTACTS COULD BE OBIATED IF THE US PROVIDED TO THE COUNCIL A "COMMON PIECE OF PAPER", I.E., THE PRESENTATION MADE TO INDIVIDUAL NATO EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, THE CHARGE DREW BRIEFLY ON GUIDANCE IN PARA 3 REF A, NOTING THAT US THINKING IS STILL TENTATIVE, THAT WE ARE AWAITING DIRECT REACTIONS FROM ALLIED GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT FOLLOWING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WE ANTICIPATED INFORAL DISCUSSIONS OF US INITIATIVES AT NATO. HE ASSURED PERMREPS THAT THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE FULLY REPORTED.

3. PANSA SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED SUMMIT AGENDA (REF B) SINCE IT IMPLIES TWO SEPARATE MEETINGS, THE FIRST DAY BY HEADS OF STATE AND THE SECOND DAY BY FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE ISSUING A MODIFIED DRAFT AGENDA THAT WOULD NOT SEPARATE THE FIRST AND SECOND DAYS. IN THIS NEW AGENDA, ITEM I WOULD COVER THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, ITEM II THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE, AND THESE WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MAIN SUBJECTS FOR DISCONFIDENTIAL

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CUSSION BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ITEM III WOULD THEN BECOME EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND WOULD INCLUDE UNDER IT CSCE AND BELGRADE, DISARMAMENT, AND OTHER EAST-WEST ISSUES. ITEMS IV THROUGH VIII WOULD REMAIN THE SAME AS IN THE INITIAL DRAFT AGENDA (REF B).

4. THE CHARGE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF C, INFORMED PERMREPS OF WASHINGTON'S DESIRE THAT A MAJOR DISCUSSION OF CSCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) FULLY AGREED WITH THE US VIEW SINCE HE THOUGHT THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO TOUCH LIGHTLY ON CSCE AND BELGRADE, WHEREAS THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE SECOND DAY COULD DEAL IN DETAIL WITH THE RANGE OF CSCE MATTERS WHICH NEED DISCUSSION. THE OTHER PERMREPS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THE US AND DUTCH VIEW.

5. KILLICK SAID LONDON HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRACTICABILITY OF SETTING UP A TWO-TIER LUNCHEON ON MAY 10, AS SYG LUNS HAD SUGGESTED WASHINGTON MIGHT DESIRE (PARA 6 REF D). PERMREPS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A TWO-TIER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE MAY 10 LUNCHEON WOULD NOT BE VERY PRACTICAL.

6. REMAINDER OF PERMREPS LUNCH REPORTED SEPTTEL.

PEREZ

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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